

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28826 301114Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 301108Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6678
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, FR, CA
SUBJECT: BARRE VISIT TO QUEBEC

REF: QUEBEC 0297

1. AFP AUGUST 29 CARRIED ITEM ATTRIBUTED TO "WELL INFORMED SOURCE," STATING THAT BARRE VISIT TO QUEBEC IS STILL POSSIBLE BETWEEN NOW AND END OF YEAR. AFP NOTES THAT DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE DATES ARE STILL GOING ON, AND FINAL DECISION WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SCHEDULES ELECTIONS DURING THE FALL. IF ELECTIONS ARE SET DURING THIS PERIOD, BARRE'S TRIP

WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL NEXT YEAR. THE AFP ARTICLE RE-AFFIRMS THE PRINCIPLE OF ALTERNATING ANNUAL VISITS BY PRIME MINISTERS OF FRANCE AND QUEBEC, WHICH WAS DECIDED DURING LEVESQUE'S VISIT TO PARIS.

2. OUR QUAI SOURCES, AND THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE, CONFIRM THAT THE AFP STORY IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT.
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THEY ADD THAT, WHENEVER BARRE VISITS QUEBEC, HE WILL ALSO VISIT OTTAWA, MAKING THE TRIP A "VISIT TO CANADA." QUAI OFFICIALS ALSO SAY THAT BARRE IS CONSIDERING A ONE-DAY STOPOVER IN NEW YORK ENROUTE TO QUEBEC, BUT THEY SAY THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE REASONS FOR THIS STOPOVER. (WE WILL BE TRYING TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS POINT.)

3. WITH REGARD TO COMMENTS THAT VISIT MIGHT BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF MINISTERIAL CHANGES IN PARIS, SPECULATION ON MINISTERIAL SHAKE-UPS IS SEASONAL IN FRANCE, ESPECIALLY IN THE FALL. THERE MAY WELL BE MINISTERIAL CHANGES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, BUT THEY WOULD NOT IN THEMSELVES WARRANT A POSTPONEMENT OF A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER. BARRE HIMSELF LOOKS LIKE A GOOD BET TO STAY ON, EVEN IF THERE ARE OTHER CHANGES.
HARTMAN

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